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CIA's old guard hides secrets, says ex-spy

By ERIC SHARP
Free Press Staff Writer

Assurances by the head of the CIA that his agency won't break the law any more are meaningless, a former CIA agent said Friday, because the head spy can easily be kept in the dark about the activities of powerful and well-entrenched underlings.

"When Admiral (Stansfield) Turner took over the CIA last year, he distrusted most of the people he found there and brought a cordon of naval officers with him," said Frank Snepp. "The old guard at the CIA really resented this. They simply tucked away the files on all kinds of sensitive subjects that Turner doesn't even know exists."

SNEPP SAID one example of this division was the MK-ULTRA scandal, in which it was revealed that the CIA had tested the effects of various drugs on Americans, and one test subject committed suicide.

"I'm sure Turner didn't know anything about MK-ULTRA until he got hit in the face with it," said Snepp, who was recruited by the CIA in 1968 while studying at Columbia University.

"One problem is that much of the most sensitive material is in the hands of the CIA security section, and you can't get into their files under the Freedom of Information Act. They even control the evidence that would be used against them in any civil or criminal prosecution."

SNEPP LEFT THE CIA in 1976 after nearly five years with the agency in Vietnam. His book, "Decent Interval," bitterly assails the CIA for what he calls its callous abandonment of thousands of Vietnamese agents to the mercies of the victorious communists.

The Justice Department has sued Snepp in federal court. It claims the book violates an agreement he made to allow the CIA to review any book he wrote before publication. The Justice Department wants to seize any money Snepp earns from "Decent Interval."

Snepp arrived in Detroit to promote the book a day after Admiral Turner assailed Snepp and other kiss-and-tell former agents at an Economic Club of Detroit luncheon.

BUT WHILE HE criticized Snepp for failing to obtain official clearance for the book, Turner did not dispute the accuracy of Snepp's charges.

Snepp said he thinks the division within the CIA is now so deep that the "old guard" will be able to thwart Turner's reform efforts simply by keeping the admiral from knowing about some things that he should know.

"I have no question that he (Turner) is an honorable man. But it's ridiculous to expect us to believe that his personal integrity is a guarantee that everyone in the CIA will obey the law," Snepp said.

SNEPP SAID TURNER'S decision to eliminate 820 jobs within the CIA has created bitterness and that Turner will discover after he completes his reform that he fired many competent agents and kept on the staff many of those who are responsible for past illegal activities.

Snepp also is promoting a "whistle-blower" bill sponsored by Sen. James Abourezk, D-S.D., which would protect and provide an avenue of investigation for federal employees who complain about waste or corruption within their agencies.

He said existing oversight groups established by the president and Congress don't work well because the complaining employee often finds himself the victim of retaliation by the agency.

SNEPP SAID HE SAW the futile and bitter experiences of a number of federal employees who attempted to bring to light what they saw as wrongs perpetrated by the government.

Those experiences prompted him to write his book without CIA sanction and brought the wrath of the Justice Department down on him.

Snepp said he was mildly surprised by the government's suit against him, pointing out that the CIA hasn't sued anyone else over the contract provision.

"They don't sue people who write laudatory books about the CIA without clearing them first," Snepp said. "Apparently, the CIA only chooses to enforce this provision against critics."

Editorial

CIA Wants to Share Its File

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Director Stansfield Turner gave further evidence of his agency's new and more open look when he told Detroit's Economic Club the other day that the CIA wants to share its intelligence information with the public.

"There is economic and political information that we can collect that would be of value to American businessmen," he said, and added that the CIA is prepared to expand its intelligence activities into non-military areas that might give taxpayers "a better return on their investment."

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DCI

Later, in Columbus, he said the old modus operandi of keeping CIA work secret "is no longer the policy because the public wants to know. We will be speaking more, answering the media more completely and publishing more."

And in an address at Ohio State University, he said: "We hope the academic community can gain from intelligence. We need the relations with the academic community because the lifeblood of intelligence is the annual infusion of a few good, high-quality persons from the campus."

GRANTED THAT much of what Turner states may be attributed to rhetorical image-building on behalf of his embattled agency. Still, the promise to share intelligence gains with those in this country outside the military and governmental community who might benefit from it, is constructive and overdue.

No other organization in the United States has the formidable facilities for sheer collection of information that the CIA does with its electronic devices, its high-flying planes, infrared cameras and assorted language and political experts and grey eminences.

TURNER NOTED THAT through the use of satellites there is a good deal of data available about possible oil and energy reserves, crop projections and industrial potential and that the CIA, as a public-funded agency, should share such information on a larger scale.

This kind of talk, we are happy to say doesn't sound like the sinister cloak and dagger group of yore.

The new man at the helm: Admiral Stansfield Turner

by Barry Kliff

WANTED: Director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Job Description: Responsibility for gathering and analyzing United States intelligence. Supervise an estimated force of 150,000 employees with an estimated budget of over \$7 billion. Must report to eight congressional oversight committees and the president of the United States.

Salary: Negotiable.

References: Not required but may be submitted.

For the last five years, the Central Intelligence Agency could have easily ran an ad like this because they have had to look for a new director. In any other business, five new directors in any period of time would be enough to close the company's door. Yet, competition for the job isn't going to stop and the work must go on. It was envitable, then, that whoever President Carter picked for the job would be a controversial choice.

Admiral Stansfield Turner did not disappoint the president. A former Annapolis graduate, Turner, 54, has credentials that are impressive to both conservatives and liberals. A Rhodes scholar, he studied at both Oxford and the War College in Washington before earning his four stars at age 51. A native of Highland Park, Ill., Turner has gained the reputation as an having unconventional military mind that prefers to discuss trends and not statistics.

"I've tried to make it pretty clear that if I can't tell someone something, I want them to know I can't tell them," Turner said in an interview with The Daily Illini. "We do and will continue to declassify secrets but it is a very time-consuming process and we don't have enough people to do the job adequately."

Turner, who was recently put in charge of overall U.S. intelligence, is certainly the most powerful CIA official since John Dulles and the start of the Cold War in the 1950s. An active Navy officer, Turner's critics charge that he would rather be chairman of the Joints Chiefs of Staff or chief of Naval Operations and is using his post at the CIA as a stepping stone. He pointedly denies these charges.

"I'm here to run the CIA and that's all I'm going to do. This is a big enough job for anyone and I don't think about what's going to happen in the future. We've got enough work now to keep this agency busy for a long time."

Turner is certainly keeping the agency's 20-30 lawyers busy. When a CIA agent gains employment they are required to sign an oath that forbids them from publishing or describing the names, locations or methods which the CIA uses in gathering or analyzing its intelligence. Several agents, most notably Philip Agee, Victor Marchetti and Frank Snepp have recently written books which detail CIA activities both here and abroad, thus violating the oath. Snepp's book, *Decent Interval*, a fictional account of America's last days in Vietnam in which he describes a series of sloppy plans and even sloppier execution by the American forces which forced U.S. troops to abandon several thousand Vietnamese that would have otherwise been saved.

"I talked to Snepp in this office and he told me he wouldn't publish this book," Turner said. "If he didn't like the way things were going, he should have gone through channels. He could have gone to the oversight boards, but instead he told me one thing and did another."

Turner said the courts should decide this matter, but added that it can set a dangerous precedent. "This is a very difficult business and if we go to court, then we have to prove that something is harmful. This is going to require us to produce additional classified documents which releases more information. It's a self-perpetuating monster."

Snepp denies these charges and claims that he tried to go through channels, but said that the committees wouldn't touch anything so controversial.

Aside from the Snepp matter, Turner said the CIA will certainly be a leaner but more efficient organization in the future. "We're going to be bringing in other people to check our work and I think that will help. We've got to avoid duplication."

As an example, Turner said the CIA recently sent a copy of its world energy report to major energy companies' chief executives. "Some of them told us we were all wet and then we invited them in to tell us why. Well, they came in and now we can see their side. I'm not saying that we're wrong, but they do give us an additional perspective that we need to see."

Turner also said that although clandestine activities will be curtailed, they will not be eliminated. "Unfortunately the other side isn't playing by the same rules we are. However, we don't allow assassinations anymore or things of that nature." What most people fail to realize is the nature of this business; this isn't an ice-cream factory, this is a spy shop.

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ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE 1-7

MICHIGAN DAILY
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Reports link CIA to 'U' China Center

By RENE BECKER

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The Michigan Daily

--"The University of Michigan at Ann Arbor is clearly in the forefront of the Centers on Communist China."

--"At the Harvard/Stanford level?"

--"It's above Stanford."

So began a conversation between employees of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) on December 3, 1965. The transcript of that dialogue begins an extensive documentation of the CIA's secret ties to the University's Center for Chinese Studies.

AS A RESULT of a freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request The Daily has received from CIA files more than 200 documents concerning the University, including letters to and from faculty members, inter-office memorandums, and field reports.

Approximately 75 per cent of these documents directly concern the Center for Chinese Studies and reveal the CIA's various ties to individuals from the Center which date back to the mid-sixties.

In the spring of 1966, the CIA conducted a series of field trips to China studies centers at 25 universities. The purpose of these trips "was to assess the facilities, faculty, curriculum, and faculty research interests in order to develop some feel for the China study activity in the country."

THE FIELD TRIP report on Ann Arbor offers nothing but praise for the University's Center for Chinese Studies.

"As one of the nation's outstanding centers for Far Eastern studies . . . whether as a source of qualified graduates or a location for training agency personnel, Michigan belongs in the top rank," the report states.

The CIA deleted all names from the documents and often deleted whole passages, sometimes leaving a page with only the University of Michigan's name left intact. The CIA claimed all deletions were made under the provisions of the FOIA, which allows the CIA to protect the privacy of its employees, associates and intelligence operations and methods.

The heavily-censored field report discusses course offerings at the University, faculty, Agency image, the prospect for expansion of China studies and research. Although most of the remarks under the research heading were deleted the Agency did allow that the Chinese Center here was the only group doing "significant" Chinese studies in the country.

THE CIA, in several cases, provided research aid to University professors. In one well documented case beginning in October of 1967, the CIA arranged interviews, provided research materials, and had Agency analysts cooperate with a University professor.

"I have decided to try to do an interview project focusing on problems of political communication within the Chinese political system," wrote the unnamed professor. This would involve interviewing "between twenty and thirty ex-cadres from the party or government . . ." A cadre is a Chinese Communist party or government official.

After a detailed explanation of his planned research, the professor wrote his reason for approaching the Agency: "The immediate question about which I would appreciate your guidance concerns the practical aspect of this type of project."

THE PROFESSOR asked if twenty to thirty ex-cadres would be available for an interview and whether he could gain access to them. "In particular might it be possible to get some informal official help or cooperation in locating a number of ex-cadres now in the United States?" wrote the researcher.

In connection with this the professor wrote, "I do not know whether the fact that I will have a clearance before long would affect my ability to gain access to these people."

If the "clearance" the professor wrote of is with the CIA, it would mean that a contractual relationship existed between the professor and the CIA, according to Bill Peterson, an Agency

spokesman. "If a guy's got a CIA clearance, obviously he must have something to do with the CIA." On the other hand, Peterson said, it could mean he was cleared by another government agency.

The CIA response to the professor's inquiry discounted the possibility of finding 20 to 30 Chinese ex-cadres anywhere. But the CIA agent promised to arrange interviews with a few ex-cadres who live in the Washington area. "Let me know a bit in advance when you may be in town and I'll try to set things up," the agent said.

In response to the question of the professor's clearance affecting his project the CIA agent wrote that "so far as I can ascertain, there is no difficulty; of course, our role in any such project should not be publicized. In any case I can arrange a short session on the ground rules when you get to town."

The documents indicate the professor met with CIA personnel on several occasions. He met with a top CIA China analyst and with at least one ex-cadre before going overseas to complete the project.

WHEN THE PROFESSOR returned, the Agency offered him a job. A letter dated May 1, 1970 refers to an informal meeting the professor had with the CIA agent and his wife.

"I appreciated the chance to talk over with you in some detail the employment possibility with your group," wrote the unnamed professor. "There is much that is very attractive about the position you suggest."

The professor wrote, however, that his long-term commitment was to academic life. "While that may change given the current state of things in the universities, I want to think this aspect of things through with care," he wrote. The final result of this relationship could not be reconstructed from documents provided by the CIA.

WHILE THE CIA was offering them

jobs, professors sometimes returned the favor by clearing the way for Agency personnel to get University jobs when those agents were laid off because of CIA budget cuts.

In a letter dated April 6, 1973, a University faculty member, also connected with the Center for Chinese Studies, wrote Hal Ford, CIA Coordinator for Academic Relations, expressing his concern for those at the CIA who might be laid off.

THE LETTER continues: "Would you convey my feelings to any involved with whom I have had a personal or professional relationship? Is there anything I might do to help elsewhere in town? Should any of my friends on the Hill be alerted?"

CIA employees on campus, for whatever reason, are not uncommon although little known. On Christmas Eve 1968 a professor connected to the Center for Chinese Studies sent a letter to a CIA employee.

"Regarding (deleted), I am quite interested in having him join us here as a resource person for a year or two. . . . I am having a bit more trouble mobilizing support for him around the Center than anticipated, but I hope we can work out a mutually satisfactory arrangement," wrote the unnamed professor.

In the 1966 CIA field trip report, the CIA agents made the following recommendation: "Rather than having CIA engage in competition with the universities for the relatively few products of the China centers, it seems more profitable to use the idle capacity of such schools as Michigan for training of agency personnel already on duty in CIA."